

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 00579 130802Z

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ACTION NEA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV SCUL KU

SUBJ: GOK OFFICIAL'S INTEREST IN VISITING US

SUMMARY: SENIOR KUWAITI ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OFFICIAL WOULD LIKE VISIT US THIS SPRING FOR INFORMAL TALKS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND OTHERS. GOK OFFICIAL WOULD ALSO HOPE TO VISIT SPOKANE FAIR AND OTHER SITES. GOK WOULD PAY COSTS BUT USG REQUESTED OUTLINE PROGRAM. END SUMMARY

1. ABD AL-AZIZ AL-HAMDAN, DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT, KUWAIT PLANNING BOARD, TELEPHONED EMBOFF RECENTLY AND ASKED WHETHER USG COULD ASSIST HIM DURING FOUR WEEK VISIT TO US THIS SPRING. GOK, HE SAID, WOULD PAY ANY COSTS, BUT HAMDAN WOULD APPRECIATE ASSISTANCE AND GUIDANCE FROM USG. HAMDAN WOULD LIKE TO VISIT SPOKANE 1974 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION AND DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MATTERS WITH FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO VISIT APPROPRIATE SITES ELSEWHERE IN US IF POSSIBLE, AND HE HAS INDICATED THAT A LARGE CITY AND SOMEWHERE WHERE DESERT ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS CAN BE OBSERVED WOULD BE OF MOST INTEREST.

2. FOR PAST NINE MONTHS HAMDAN HAS INDICATED SEVERAL TIMES TO EMBOFF HIS DESIRE IN MAKING SUCH A TRIP. HE WISHES CONSULT

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 00579 130802Z

WITH USG OFFICIALS RE GENERAL POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZ-

ATIONAL ISSUES. HIS PRIMARY INTEREST IS TO LEARN AND HE MAY INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES FOR EXCHANGE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

3. HAMDAN IS A PERSONABLE, YOUNG KUWAITI WHO IS MOST SENIOR KUWAITI OFFICIAL SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH HE, LIKE HIS COLLEAGUES ELSEWHERE, WORKS IN AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH OTHERS ARE SKEPTICAL OR EAGER TO GET PART OF BUREAUCRATIC POWER THAT GOES ALONG WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS. HE ATTENDED STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE AND IS ONE OF SMALL GROUP HERE TRYING TO ALERT REST OF GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY AT LARGE TO POTENTIAL OR EXISTING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT REQUESTED ADVISE EMBASSY WHETHER USG ABLE ASSIST HAMDAN IN VISITING US DURING SPRING (MAY-JUNE) 1974 FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH US OFFICIALS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TO VISIT SELECTED SITES OF INTEREST IN THE US INCLUDING SPOKANE FAIR.
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